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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Date Allowed: **February 7, 2005**

**INOUE, Takakazu**

Group Art Unit: **1637**

Serial Number: **10/069,977**

Examiner: **Joyce Tung**

Filed: **March 13, 2002**

**P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 2998**

**FOR: METHOD OF ANALYZING INTESTINAL FLORA AND ANALYTICAL APPARATUS**

**REQUEST FOR RETURN OF FORM PTO-1449**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 11, 2005

Sir:

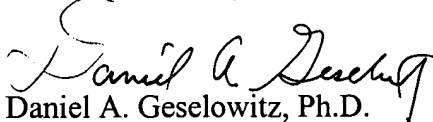
An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on **January 12, 2005**. A copy of this Information Disclosure Statement is attached.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner return a copy of the Form PTO-1449 which accompanies the Information Disclosure Statement, marked to indicate that the reference listed therein has been considered by the Office.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned should he have any questions concerning this Request.

Respectfully submitted,

**ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP**

  
Daniel A. Geselowitz, Ph.D.

Agent for Applicant  
Reg. No. 42,573

DAG/plb  
Atty. Docket No. **020159**  
Suite 1000  
1725 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 659-2930



**23850**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosure: Information Disclosure Statement filed on **January 12, 2005**  
Date Stamped Post Card (copy)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **INOUE, Takakazu**

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Serial No.: 10/069,977

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Filed: **March 13, 2002**

**P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 2998**

For. **METHOD OF ANALYZING INTESTINAL FLORA AND ANALYTICAL APPARATUS**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND**  
**STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 12, 2005

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the Search Report and one copy of each of these documents is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry in the national stage for the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of either a final official action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

The undersigned hereby certifies

XX that each item of information contained in this statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

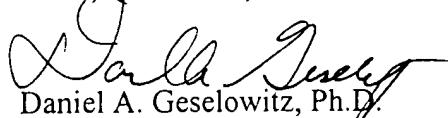
The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first

instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



Daniel A. Geselowitz, Ph.D.

Agent for Applicants

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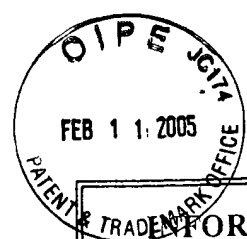


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO-1449, European Search Report and 5 references

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449</b>	Atty. Docket No. 020159	Serial No. 10/069,977
	Applicant(s): INOUE, Takakazu	
	Filing Date: March 13, 2002	Group Art Unit: 1637

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA	5,753,467	Jensen et al.	5-19-98	435	91.2	
_____	AB	5,846,783	Wu et al.	12-8-98	425	91.2	
_____	AC						
_____	AD						
_____	AE						

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AF	WO 97/31256	8-28-97	PCT	
_____	AG	199 14 461 A1	10-21-99	DE	US Patent No. 6,287,769 B1
_____	AH				
_____	AI				
_____	AJ				

### OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AK	
_____	AL	
Examiner		Date Considered



CARD NO: 12692

U.S. Patent Application      Docket No: 020159  
Serial No: 10/069,977      Filed: 03/13/02  
Patent Number:      Issued:  
Applicant(s): INOUE, Takakazu

Papers filed herewith on: 01/12/05

Other: Information Disclosure Statement; PTO-1449 w/  
Euro. Search Report and 5 ref



COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of the papers filed as indicated  
in connection with the above-identified case.

DAG/PLB